



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

**REPRESENTATIVE RUSSELL A. MORIN**  
28<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING  
ROOM 2202  
HARTFORD, CT 06106-1591  
CAPITOL: (860) 240-8585  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-842-8267  
FAX: (860) 240-0206  
E-MAIL: Russell.Morin@cga.ct.gov

**CHAIRMAN**  
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS  
COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Testimony  
Representative Russell A. Morin  
28<sup>th</sup> District, Wethersfield  
March 2012

Chairman Coleman, Chairman Fox and Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, I am here to testify in strong support of H.B. 5366 An Act Concerning Civil Actions and Subpoenas Filed to Harass an Individual or After Numerous Actions Against the Individual Have been Dismissed. I would like to thank the chairmen and committee members for bringing this proposal forward for a public hearing.

I am here testifying before you today because this bill addresses a very real problem. I have constituents who are dealing with this issue right now. There are so many instances where victims of domestic violence or other types of crime are further victimized by the perpetrator of these crimes by being taken to court repeatedly for frivolous lawsuits. These families not only have to deal with the physical and mental pain caused by such a brutal act, but then have to continually be harassed in the court of law by the perpetrator over and over again.

These lawsuits can cost the victim thousands and thousands of dollars in one circumstance that I have seen from a constituent, amounting to over \$100,000 and the cost continues to rise. The person that is bringing these frivolous and costly lawsuits continues to inflict untold psychological harm on the family involved. There needs to be a way to protect them from further harassment. There have been some instances, like the one my constituent faced, where the perpetrator continued to file lawsuits while incarcerated for crimes committed against the family. To me, this was shocking. While I firmly believe that everyone should have the opportunity to prove their case in the court of law, but when it is done repeatedly and is dismissed repeatedly, it feels a bit of redundancy exists in our justice system. Let us work together to protect victims and families of this undue torture. We all have a solemn duty in this legislature to protect those that we serve. This is one prime example of fulfilling our mission.

I thank you for your consideration of this bill.